

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are presently active in this case. All currently active claims and their respective status are shown above for the Examiner's convenience.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tobin et al. (hereinafter "Tobin") in view of Gervais et al. (hereinafter "Gervais"). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tobin and Gervais as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of Kametani. Claims 4, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tobin and Gervais as applied to Claim 1 above and further in view in Garlepp et al. (hereinafter "Garlepp"). Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gillingham et al. (hereinafter "Gillingham") in view of Tobin, Gervais and Kametani. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillingham, Tobin, Gervais and Kametani as applied to Claim 7 above and further in view of Kono. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gillingham, Tobin, Gervais and Kametani as applied to Claim 7 above and further in view of Garlepp. Claims 11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gillingham in view of Tobin, Gervais and Garlepp. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gillingham, Tobin, Gervais, and Garlepp in further view of Kametani.

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Rinehart and Cleary for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' representative on December 17, 2003, at which time outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments similar to the ones developed hereinafter were presented

and the Examiner indicated that in light of the arguments, the amended claims appear to define over the cited prior art and the Examiner would reconsider the outstanding grounds for rejection upon formal submission of a response. Further, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments cure the 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph deficiencies.

In response to the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, Claim 13 has been amended to correct the noted informalities. In view of amended Claim 13, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

In response to the rejections of Claims 1-12 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections as discussed next.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that "the second transistor is responsive to a read control signal and a column cycle signal" to define over the cited prior art. Further, Claim 7 has been amended to recite "the second transistor is configured to selectively connect the first transistor to the data input/output line in response to the column cycle signal and a read control signal" to define over the cited prior art.

Neither Tobin nor Gervais, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests a "second transistor responsive to a read control signal and a column cycle signal."¹ Likewise, regarding the rejection to Claim 7, neither Gillingham, Tobin, Gervais or Kametani, individually or in combination, teaches or suggests the second transistor "is configured to selectively connect the first transistor to the data input/output line in response to the column cycle signal and a read

¹ See Claims 1 and 11 of the present application.

control signal."² Therefore, even if the combination of Tobin and Gervais regarding Claims 1 and 3, and the combination of Gillingham, Tobin, Gervais and Kametani regarding Claim 7 is assumed to be improper. The combination fails to teach each and every element as is presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections based on the amended claims.

CONCLUSION

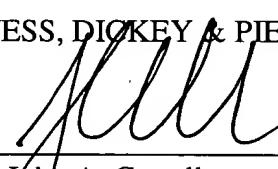
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-15 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encourage to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

HARNESS, Dickey & PIERCE, PLC

By _____


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² See independent Claim 7 of the present application.